

Pledges support for New Jersey fishermen

Washington, DC – Congressman John Adler today joined local fishermen at a rally in Washington calling on Congress to revise overly restrictive regulations that are closing fisheries and hurting coastal communities. Adler, an original cosponsor of the Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act, said legislation must be passed to revise regulations and protect American fishermen and fishing businesses.

"Burdensome regulations are hurting New Jersey's fishermen and our local economy," Congressman Adler said during today's rally. "During these tough economic times, Ocean County fishermen cannot be asked to deal with these unnecessary and costly problems any longer. Congress must act quickly to pass legislation that will support our fishermen and our communities."

The demonstration will highlight the unintended negative impacts of the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the federal fisheries law that was revised in January of 2007. The fishermen, organized through United We Fish, argue that American anglers and business owners are being hurt by overly restrictive management requirements that are based on non-scientific arbitrary deadlines.

Congressman Adler, who meets regularly with his Sportsmen's Advisory Board, chaired by RFA Executive Director Jim Donofrio, is a vocal supporter of the Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act. The bill would provide "limited flexibility" for federal fisheries management. More than 100 fishing groups and industry members from around the country pledged their support for the legislation.

Today's effort was coordinated by numerous organizations including the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), Conservation Cooperative of Gulf Fishermen (CCGF), United Boatmen of New York, United Boatmen of New Jersey, New York Sportfishing Federation, Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association, and the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund.